000pletely foreign.

162 Lithuanian is spoken today by about three
191 million people, half of whom understand only their native language. Since a detailed description of the Lithuanian language area would extend considerably beyond the limits of this presentation, only the following may be said briefly on the subject: Lithuanian is the native language of the overwhelming majority of the inhabitants of the Lithuanian state. Beyond this /16/ a large section of the Lithuanian language area is found today under Polish rule (the Vilna area). Furthermore, the area of the Lithuanian language projects on the one hand into Latvia and on the other into East
[167] Prussia. Finally, there are in the United States large, close-knit Lithuanian communities which may include a total of about half a million people. In Chicago alone 70,000 Lithuanians have been counted. These people are emigrants and their descendants. Large Lithuanian colonies have also arisen in South America, especially in recent times.

197 In spite of its relatively small size we
184 find within the enclosure of the Lithuanian language area a large number of dialectal differences. The principal dialects are High Lithuanian and Low Lithuanian (Samogitian), of which the latter is related to the former in about the same way as Low German is to High German. In addition to its vocabulary, Samogitian is distinguished from High Lithuanian by its accentuation, its drawled pronunciation, and its loss of fully pronounced endings. It is divided in turn into the dialects of Raseiniai and Telšiai, which are distinguished from each other principally by transposition of the vowels of the diphthongs. In the writings of the poetess Žemaitė, Low Lithuanian stands out sharply in syntax and vocabulary.

The High Lithuanian dialect group is divided into an eastern and a western subgroup. Western High Lithuanian in turn consists of two dialects, whose border is formed approximately by

197 the Memel. In the eastern group of High Lithuanian
184 a series of dialects can also be distinguished. Dzūkijan, or Southeast Lithuanian, as well as North Lithuanian spoken in the river area of the Mūšă (north of Panevėžys) stand out as particular dialects. (8)

8. A. Senn, op. cit., pp. 5-6.

The large number of dialectal differences implies for the vocabulary and form of the language an enrichment not to be underestimated. This surprising richness in a relatively small territory /Unnumbered page with illustration--Lithuanian Landscape/ /17/ can probably be attributed primarily to the seclusion of the individual districts. This resulted from a backwardness of many centuries and a conservative adherence to inherited land. The differences of the dialects, however, are not so strong that they could destroy the unity of the language. The present literary language is based on the dialect of the South Lithuanian province of Užnemunė (earlier the gouvernement Suvalkija), which is spoken particularly on the south bank of the Memel, in other words, the southern dialect of western High Lithuanian. We thus find in standard Lithuanian the long vowels of the final syllables preserved. (9)

[113]

9. All grammatical presentations of the present Lithuanian standard language are based primarily on the work of Prof. Jablonski, who, under the name Rygiškių Jonas, is the author of: Lietuvių kalbos vadovelis (Kaunas, 1925); and Lietuvių kalbos gramatika, 2nd ed. (Kaunas-Vilna, 1922).

197 B. Antiquity and Formal Richness of the Lithuanian
192 Language

In the year 1625 the Königsberg clergyman Johannes Rhesa wrote in the preface to his Lith-

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292 The national costume, though little worn on ordinary occasions, is much in evidence on holidays and on festive occasions, particularly among the women.

342 241 Since the redistribution of the communal lands, the farms have all been scattered over the vast plain, at some distance from one another. Most of the buildings are of wood, as timber costs far less than masonry; the roofs are generally of thatch or wood, though quite often of iron or tiled. Most of the houses are fairly roomy, and even small peasant farmers have three or four rooms. The Lithuanian peasant does not live in a house under the same roof as the stables or other farm buildings, as is so often the case in Western and Southern Europe; he regards such an arrangement as inconvenient and unhealthy. There is generally a little orchard and vegetable garden near the house. The Lithuanian peasants do not plant orchards for commercial purposes; they grow fruit for their own requirements and very few of them sell their fruit on the home markets or for export.

184 The country being comparatively small in area, no great differences are noticeable between the types of farm or the peasants in different regions. Of recent years, the various means of communication, particularly motor-bus services, have improved, and this tends very largely to eliminate such differences as did exist between the various regions. Practically all the peasantry is Roman Catholic. Though dialects exist, peasants [212] from all parts of the country understand one another. For some years now, over half of them have been able to read the newspapers and to become familiar with the literary language; farming papers alone have a circulation of over 150,000, though the total number of farms does not exceed 290,000. From the point of view of nationality also, the Lithuanian peasantry constitutes a homogeneous mass. Lithuania does possess national minorities (about 18% of the population) but these consist mainly of urban dwellers, whereas the rural districts are populated almost exclusively by persons of Lithuanian race.

* * *

000 The Lithuanians have full confidence in the future. Always supposing that no restrictions are placed on their activities and that their territory is not once again turned into a battlefield, the exploitation of the natural riches of the country should proceed rapidly and on a comprehensive scale, while the living conditions of the rural population will improve correspondingly. This confidence in the future is justified by the very considerable progress already achieved during the brief period since Lithuania recovered her independence, progress which is explained by the attachment of country dwellers to the land and by their hard-working, intelligent and long-suffering character, and, lastly,